

DOCKET NO: 246897US2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
AKIRA SUZUKI, ET AL. : EXAMINER: WANG, HARRIS C.
SERIAL NO: 10/743,092 :
FILED: DECEMBER 23, 2003 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2139
FOR: COMPUTERIZED ELECTRONIC :
DOCUMENT PRODUCING, EDITING
AND ACCESSING SYSTEM FOR
MAINTAINING HIGH-SECURITY

PROVISIONAL ELECTION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the election requirement dated March 16, 2007, Applicants elect with traverse Invention I, Claims 1-69, 105-114 and 129-131, drawn to an encapsulated document, classified in Class 715, Subclass 515. Applicants further elect Species 1, Claims 2-5, 10-11, 13, 25, 27, 32, 41-69, 105-114, 129-131 classified under Class 726 and Subclass 26 preventing Data from unauthorized access for further examination on the merits. Claim 1 and 2 are believed to be generic to species 1, 2, and 3. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected inventions.

Furthermore, while the Election Requirement asserts that the application contains claims to patentably distinct inventions, MPEP § 803 states the following:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

Although the outstanding Official Action identifies different search classifications, it is believed that the claims of the present application would have to be searched in a handful of sub-classes. Furthermore, since electronic searching is commonly performed, a search may be made of a large number of, or theoretically all, subclasses without substantial additional effort. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner, whereas it would be a serious burden on Applicants to prosecute and maintain separate applications.

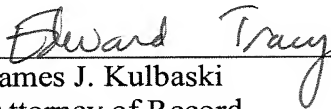
Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single group be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-137 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

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